

## ABSTRACT

AL-V-293

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(171)  
 Wellersburg, Pennsylvania vicinity  
 Public/private

1767 (mound of stones, now unexposed)  
 1902 (monument)

Milestone No. ---(171) and its mound of stones on the eastern slope of Little Allegheny Mountain close to the summit, <sup>from the northeast corner of Maryland</sup> mark a point near the 160-mile mark/on Mason and Dixon's 1768 map showing their 230.228-mile West Line. The monument is a dressed magnesian limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in Cockeysville, MD, of the same design and source as 65 other new monuments set during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary west of Sideling Hill. It is in excellent condition, unaltered, firmly set; measures about 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches square by about 6 inches high above ground; and is embellished only by the capital letter P on the north side facing Pennsylvania, M on the south side facing Maryland, the year 1766 on the east side (when this area was preliminarily surveyed) and 1902 on the west side (when <sup>into the center of the mound</sup> the new monument was set). The mound was described by the Resurvey (MGS Vol.VII, 1908, p. 96) as "a small mound of stones"... "found to agree with the work of Mason and Dixon " but was not mentioned in the report of the 1950 field inspection of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary markers, and was a sinkhole/<sup>rather than mound</sup> when found in 1984 as part of a followup of the 1979-82 field inspection of <sup>entire</sup> the West Line boundary markers. On the national and state levels, No. ---(171), with or without the mound <sup>is/significant</sup> primarily as one of the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining the West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as one of 37 monuments marking the present Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, it is also significant symbolically for its identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties, as well as serving to mark the southern corner of Bedford/Somerset counties.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE: (THEMATIC GROUP)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 171)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off the southeast side of T-766, on east slope of Little Allegheny Mountain

CITY, TOWN Wellersburg  VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 6 / PA: 9/12

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Bedford- MD: Allegany / PA: Somerset

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <sup>State</sup> boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument and mound only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: Registry of Deeds, etc. Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE Allegany County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE AL-VB-282 entered 6/2/81  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

**7 DESCRIPTION**Survey No. AL-V-293

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT (monument)	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (monument)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (mound)
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (mound)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED (mound)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (monument added 19__)

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Milestone No. ---(171) was <sup>a</sup>new monument <sup>in 1902</sup> when added to a small mound of stones believed an original Mason and Dixon mound by the 1900-03 Resurvey when working in this part of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is a dressed Cockeysville marble post with a low pyramidal top; is in excellent condition, firmly set, unaltered; measures about 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches square by about 6 inches high above ground; and is embellished only by the capital letter P on the north side facing Pennsylvania, M on the south side facing Maryland, the year 1766 on the east side (when this area was preliminarily surveyed), and 1902 on the west side (when the monument was set). The mound, NOT noted on Mason and Dixon's <sup>journal</sup> list of cairns (A. H. Mason's transcription, 1969, p. 193) but believed by the Resurvey to be an original mound of 1767, is <sup>now</sup> no longer exposed <sup>a sinkhole</sup> and

The area here is the roughest of all encountered along the West Line: the <sup>rocky eastern slope of Little Allegheny Mountain,</sup> steep <sup>near an abandoned coal mine and</sup> spoil pile, huge boulders and rock outcroppings, and only 1950 feet east of the next monument/mound west on the summit, No. ---(172). The site is within Election District 20 of Allegany County MD, and marks the southern corner of Londonderry Township of Bedford County where <sup>they join</sup> the next township <sup>and county</sup> west, Southampton of Somerset County. It is about 2 miles due east of the southern end of the small village of Wellersburg <sup>PA</sup>; about 4200 feet west of the preceding monument No. ---(170); at a point about 49 feet east-northeast of the spoil pile and about 25 feet south of the old pipeline, about 600 feet southeast of the Detrick <sup>empty</sup> tenant farm house. <sup>took three separate searches to find,</sup> Now in a sinkhole, it <sup>is</sup> impossible to see from any road or pipeline, <sup>it will be</sup> and <sup>a miracle if found again</sup> nearby; so is greatly endangered by neglect <sup>and mountainside wash,</sup> and will soon vanish into oblivion unless officially identified with a "witness post" and protected.

The monument, identical to 65 other monuments of 1902 set west of Sideling Hill along the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, was quarried and carved in Cockeysville, MD, of a white, fine-grained marble called saccharoidal dolomite or magnesian limestone; was originally cut about 10 inches square by about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, intended for setting about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet above ground, with the remaining 3 feet for setting firmly into the ground or mound. The letters and numbers are blocky, V-sunk without serifs, and are horizontally aligned as a band around the stone near the top. By scratching the soil away enough to see the letters and numbers: they appeared clear and intact, as did the top planes and apex, with only very minor chips at the top corners.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of **CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** the several kinds of new monuments set in 1902 and the Resurvey method of securing them)

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

- |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING                | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE         | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC    | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                      | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                            | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                         | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE                     | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                       | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                       | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                          | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY                     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)<br>boundary surveying |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                         |   |   |

**SPECIFIC DATES** 1767 (mound)? **BUILDER/ARCHITECT** Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
 1902 (monument) **SURVEYORS**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Milestone No. ---(171) and its <sup>unexposed</sup> mound are significant on the national and state levels primarily as among the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining Mason and Dixon's West Line, the 230.228-mile boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. This part of the Line was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, believed <sup>(by the Resurvey)</sup> marked with a cairn at this site to have been the following year, and monumented in 1902 with a new Cockeysville marble marker during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as among the 37 markers along the present Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, No. ---(171) / <sup>and its mound (if ever exposed) are</sup> also significant for their identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties, as well as serving to mark the southern corner <sup>Pennsylvania's</sup> of Londonderry Township-Bedford County/Southampton Township-Somerset County

**HISTORY AND SUPPORT** (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreVERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY AlleganySTATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Bedford/Somerset**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

4/7/84 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CUMBERLAND QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA-WEST VIRGINIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1949 PHOTOREV. 1974 SCALE: 1"=2000'

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE (171)

AL-V-293

686 170 000 FEET (P.A.) 688 689 47'30" 690 300 000 FEET (M.D.)





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MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE — (171)  
NE CORNER (1766/P)

AL-V-293

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 4/7/84 (1984.4.7)



MHT

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MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE — (171)  
SW CORNER (1902 unaltered / M)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 4/7/84 (1984.4.9)

AL-V-293



MHT AL-V-B-293

~~AL IB 282~~

M&D WESTLINE; NO. — (171) SUPPOSEDLY SET  
(1902) IN SMALL ORIGINAL M&D  
MOUND OF STONES (1767)

VIEW NW OF STONE & SETTING

PHOTO: ALICE HARTIN 4/7/84 (1984.43)  
(negative in M&S coll.)

EDGE OF OLD PIPELINE.

STONE  
MON.